

CYTOTOXICITY MEDIATION OF CELLS EVIDENCING SURFACE EXPRESSION OF CD63

4 Reference to Related Applications:

5 This application is a continuation-in-part of application S.N. 10/603,006, filed June
6 23, 2003, which is a continuation-in-part of application S.N. 10/348,231, filed January 21,
7 issued as U.S. Patent No. 7,009,090, the contents of each of which are herein incorporated by reference.

8 Field Of The Invention:

9 This invention relates to the diagnosis and treatment of cancerous diseases,
10 particularly to the mediation of cytotoxicity of tumor cells; and most particularly to the use
11 of cancerous disease modifying antibodies (CDMAB), optionally in combination with one
12 or more chemotherapeutic agents, as a means for initiating the cytotoxic response. The
13 invention further relates to binding assays, which utilize the CDMAB of the instant
14 invention.

15 Background Of The Invention:

CD63 is a Type III membrane protein of the tetraspanin family whose 20 current members are characterized by the presence of four transmembrane segments. Several groups independently identified CD63, using antibodies raised to whole cell preparations of activated platelets, granulocytes, and melanoma cells. Cloning of the respective cDNAs of their cognate glycoprotein antigens led to the recognition that the different antigens were one and the same molecule. The Sixth International Workshop on Leukocyte Typing (1996) subsequently categorized these antibodies as CD63 antibodies. Prior to the 1996 Workshop, CD63 was known by multiple names (melanoma 1 antigen, ocular melanoma-associated antigen, melanoma associated antigen ME491, lysosome-associated membrane